

**MORE THAN JUST 'STAR WARS'** 

Our Winter Movie Preview looks at all the holiday riches. 12-13

Spike Lee's latest targets gun violence. 14

Picard: David Price is worth every penny. 16





# 5TH GRADERS BOMB PLOT | FIFA SCANDAL DEEPENS

Five fifth-grade students in New Jersey were detained by police for allegedly plotting to set off an explosive device during a field trip to a local high school, according to local media. The students, all 10 or 11 years old, attend School 11 in Clifton, New Jersey. The students have not been charged, police said. They were released to their parents and suspended. REUTERS



Swiss police arrested the two top soccer bosses in the Americas on Thursday on suspicion of taking millions of dollars in bribes linked to television rights, widening a graft probe into world soccer's governing body. Switzerland's Federal Office of Justice named the men as Alfredo Hawit of Honduras, acting president of the CONCACAF region and a FIFA vice president, and Juan Angel Napout of Paraguay, head of the South American soccer federation CONMEBOL. REUTERS

# **CUBAN SLAMS US SEC**

Billionaire investor Mark Cuban is lashing out against the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission over its push against legislation that would require government agencies to get warrants before accessing emails of people under investigation.





# FENWAY FATAL SHOOTING

Police made an arrest in connection to the fatal shooting outside Fenway Park on Thanksgiving. The Boston Police Fugitive Unit arrested 26-year-old Dominique Carpenter-Grady of Dorchester for unlawful ammo and carrying a gun without a license. As of Thursday morning, the suspect had not been charged with the murder of 29-year-old Jephthe Chery. NATE HOMAN



# WOMEN COMBAT ROLES

The U.S. military will let women serve in all combat roles, Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced in a move striking down gender barriers in the armed forces. "As long as they qualify and meet the standards, women will now be able to contribute to our mission in ways they could not before," Carter said. "They'll be allowed to drive tanks, fire mortars and lead infantry soldiers into combat. They'll be able to serve as Army Rangers and Green Berets, Navy SEALS, Marine Corps infantry, Air Force parajumpers," he said. REUTERS

# CANNIBAL COP CLEARED

New York's "Cannibal Cop" was cleared of all charges by a divided U.S. appeals court, more than two years after a jury convicted him of plotting to kill and eat women. Gilberto Valle was found guilty at trial in 2013 of conspiring to kidnap women and illegally accessing a police database to collect information. REUTERS



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# Do you recognize this photo found at Yawkey station?

Bostonians took to social media to find the owner of an interesting photo found at Yawkey station.

On Wednesday afternoon, a dated holiday
photo of an older woman
and a young child was
found in the rain. The
photo, though, was
mostly dry and therefore
recently dropped, leading
the person who picked it
up, known on Reddit as
Rosie2490, to put the image on social media in an
effort to find the person
who dropped it.

Advice from other Redditors ranged from putting it in the station's lost-and-found to stepping up the social media presence by distributing the image on as many channels as possible.

We are doing our part to help return this interesting image to its owner. Anyone with information can email Metro Boston reporter spencer.buell@metro. us. METRO



# Help Metro make magic

#### Please donate to the Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive during the 2015 holiday season.

In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Tony's Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

This year marks the seventh anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longestrunning editor-in-chief. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive. We are now asking readers to contribute what they can to Tony's Metro Magic.

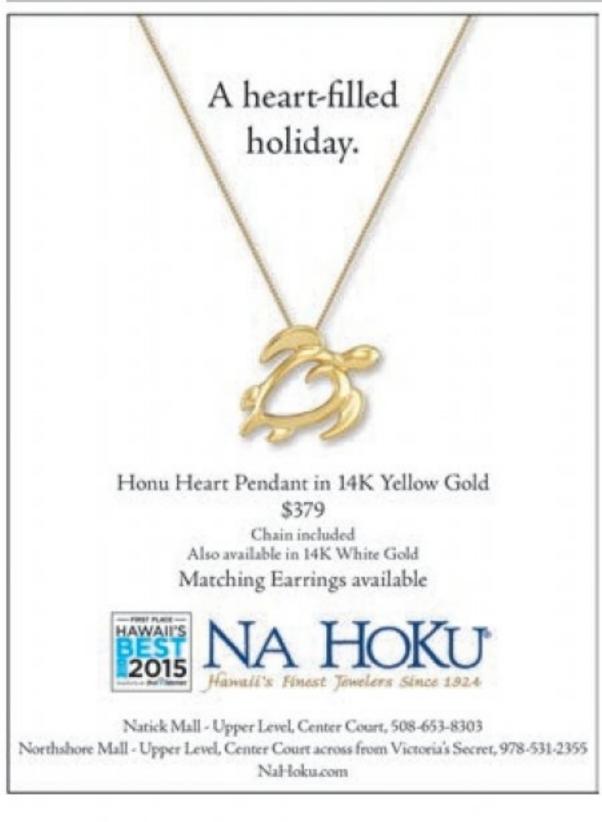
Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to www.metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic logo.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's



secure payment system. Your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.









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The Caribbean's best-kept secrets just got closer than ever. Beginning Dec. 3, award-winning Norwegian Air will launch the first and only nonstop service from Boston to Martinique and the Guadeloupe Islands. Be among the first to discover these hidden gems. Enjoy your flight over there with free WiFi onboard on one of the newest and most eco-friendly fleets in the sky. Book your Caribbean winter getaway now, at our signature low fares!



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# Facing the future



Len from Mattapan said he knows Boston is the best city in the world. He's proud to be from Boston.



The selfies have spoken.

The selfies have spoken.

The city on Friday was set to wrap up its weeklong traveling "photo booth" campaign, which asked passersby to pose for a selfie in front of a futuristic Boston backdrop and offer their two cents on what's next for the Hub.

Metro picked out some of the best ideas and selfies collected so far.

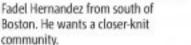
Even Keytar Bear makes a cameo!

The booth makes its final stop at the SoWa market in the South End tonight, 5-7 p.m.

See more at Metro.us /boston spenceraueu



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Devon, a graduate of English High and from Boston, loves his city and is excited that we are planning so it continues to be awesome. Would love to see more dedicated bike lanes.





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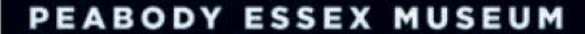
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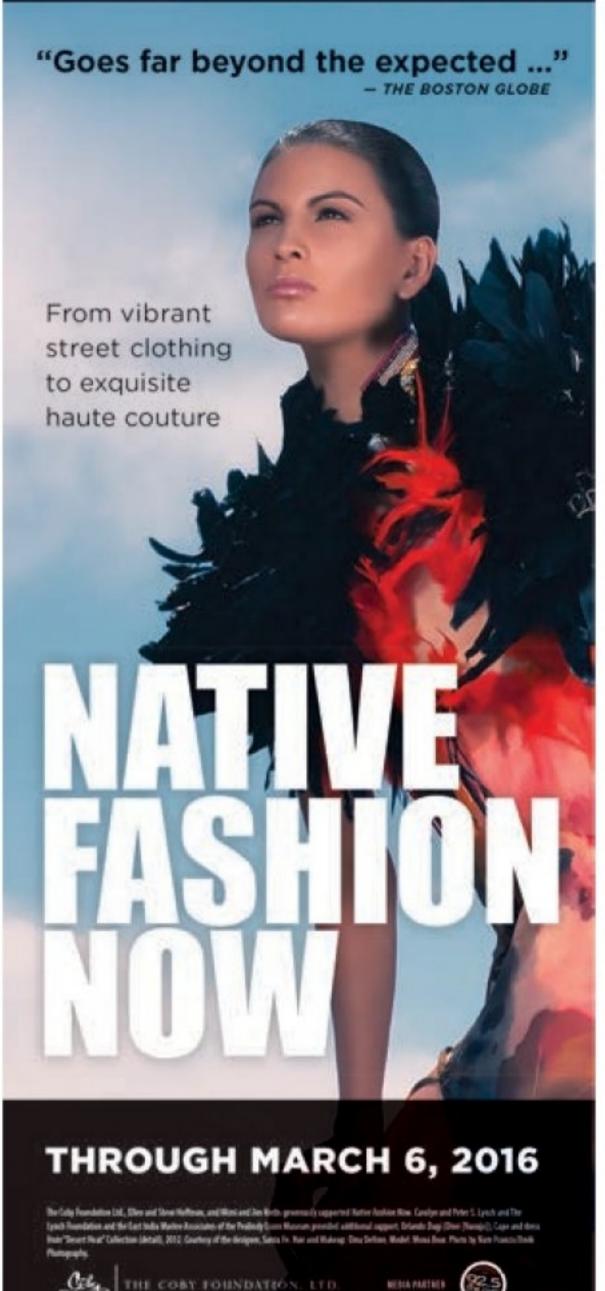
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# 'CHI-RAQ' AN AFFRONT

This week, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel fired Superintendent Garry McCarthy after failing to enact systemic departmental change that would have prevented one of the city's worst police shootings in recent memory.

The viral video of a white Chicago cop firing 16 rounds into the black body of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald has once again reminded America how complex the intermingling of race and the criminal justice system is.

Such killings reiterate the necessity of #BlackLivesMatter the movement aiming to combat the institutional racial bias and injustice targeted at vulnerable black citizens.

But tragically, our nation's most prolific black filmmaker plans to capitalize off of the antithesis of such a

Spike Lee's new film "Chi-Raq," in theaters Friday, predicates itself

# **ERNEST OWENS**

The Ernest Opinion

America's Youngest **National Columnist** 

Award-winning multimedia journalist Ernest Owens is a keen observer of social, LGBT and race issues in Philadelphia. Follow him @MrErnestOwens



on being a "satire" exposing the "self-inflicted genocide" of black-onblack gun violence in Chicago.

Chicago is my birthplace and an emotional bloodline to my understanding of urban life. It's no secret that the climbing death toll due to gang-related gun violence is an unprecedented crisis that casts an ugly shadow over our nation's third-largest city. Hence, the city has been grossly called "Chi-Raq," given that lives lost supersede the number of Americans killed during the Iraq War.

But we aren't the only ones who've had our ups and downs. Remember when Philadelphia was "Killadelphia," Baltimore was "Murder Ink," or when Brooklyn used to be a bloody ghost town? All of these cities have had their fair share of national outcry when it came to excessive urban massacres.

But Mr. Lee believes that "no peace, no piece" will fix this problem. His "satire" is a patriarchal heteronormative attempt at modernizing the Greek comedy "Lysistrata" that suggests that women stopping sexual intercourse with their





9



Spike Lee GETTY IMAGES

violent male partners will end the war.

Sure, Spike ... because the war began with black men killing one another for no clear reason and when they choose to stop - so will the war. It doesn't get any more tone-deaf than such vapid logic.

This cinematic victim-blaming is an affront to the current movement of #BlackLivesMatter and any mature understanding of the urban sociology. It places the responsibility of gun-violence prevention on the most vulnerable communities who have fallen helpless to a system that has failed to protect them.

If you want to prevent senseless killings in America, stop looking solely at the killer — include a look at the environment that produces it. Whether you are in Boston, New York City, Chicago or Philadelphia — they all have grotesque familiarities.

Such as an embarrassing poverty rate with a crippling education system that leaves people at the bottom of the food chain when it comes to employment ... I'm looking at you Philadelphia. A heavily gentrifying population that pushes lowerincome communities out of their neighborhoods with less access to proper resources — sounds familiar, NYC? Or how about a city whose use of racial

profiling is second nature and has become accustomed to being an unwelcoming place for diversity - Boston, do better.

Among others, these factors — tied in with lax gun control policies — have created environments like "Chi-Raq." Mr. Lee is putting the cart before the horse with his out-of-touch religious pathology of healing such communi-

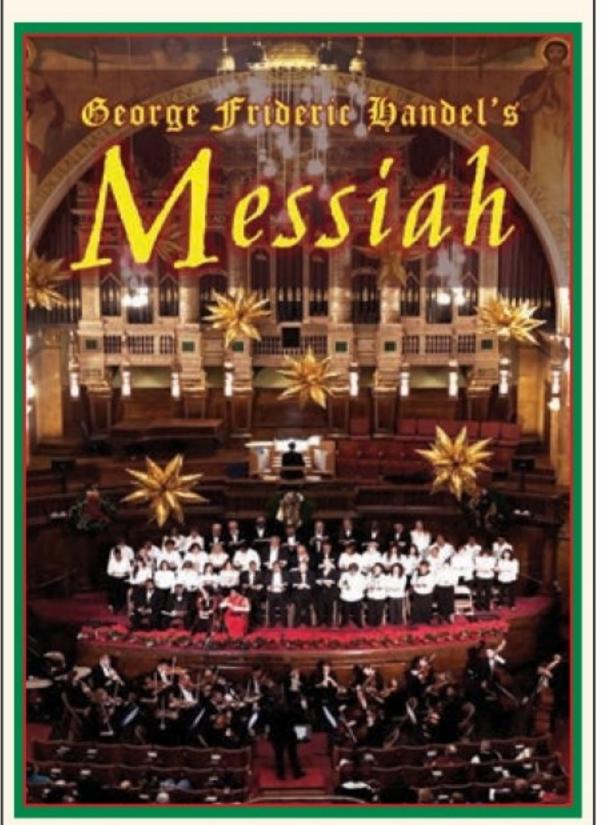
His pathetic "Orange March" with the Rev. Al Sharpton after the NYC premiere of his film on Wednesday to raise gun-violence awareness was nothing more than a marketing push that had hundreds of marchers misguidedly wearing his memorabilia.

It's going to take a lot more than just poor black men putting down their guns to combat this issue — perhaps Mr. Lee should have done the right thing by letting the world know



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# After rampage, authorities scramble to find a motive

The couple had entered the U.S. in July 2014 after a trip that included Pakistan and perhaps other countries.

The couple accused of killing 14 people at a holiday party in Southern California had more than 6,000 rounds of ammunition and a dozen pipe bombs on them and elsewhere, authorities said on Thursday as they sought to determine if the pair had links to Islamic militant groups.

Syed Rizwan Farook, and Tashfeen Malik. 27, who was described as his wife and mother of his 6-month-old daughter, were killed in a shootout with police five hours after Wednesday's massacre at the Inland Regional Center social services agency in the city of San



FBI and local law enforcement move a weapon and compile evidence at the scene GETTY IMAGES

Bernardino. Twenty-one people were wounded in the shooting.

San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan said at a Thursday news conference that a search of a townhouse in nearby Redlands believed used by Farook and Malik yielded flash drives, computers and cellphones.

Officials in Washington familiar with the investigation said so far there was no hard evidence of a direct connec-

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m

tion between the shooters and any militant group abroad but that the electronics would be checked to see if the couple had been browsing on jihadist websites or social media.

CNN, citing sources, said Farook had been "radicalized" and had been in touch through telephone and social media with more than one international terrorism suspect who was being investigated by the FBI.

Farook, a U.S. citizen,

was born in Illinois, the son of Pakistani immigrants, according to Hussam Ayloush, who heads the Los Angeles area chapter of the Muslim advocacy group Council on American-Islamic Relations.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Malik had been granted a "fiancee visa" to come to the United States with Farook and that all applicants for the visa are fully screened. REUTERS



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Neighborhood Development



# Man's hoard of nearly 5,000 guns shows ease of amassing arms in US

As sheriff's investigators threaded past the battered cars, cast-off tires and rusted farm equipment cluttering Brent Nicholson's front yard in Pageland, South Carolina, there was no hint of the sinister stockpile hidden behind his windowless front door.

Inside, the guns were everywhere: rifles and shotguns piled in the living room, halls and bedrooms, Outside, when they rolled up the door on the pre-fab metal garage, more arms spilled out at their feet.

"This has completely changed our definition of an ass-load of guns," said Chesterfield County Sheriff Jay Brooks. Six weeks after the discovery, officers are still cataloging the weapons,



Stack of guns belonging to Brent Nicholson, chesterfield county sheriff

many of which have proved stolen, and the final tally is expected to be close to 5,000.

The question of how one man amassed such a stockpile of guns arises just as there is renewed American soul-searching over the widespread availability of firearms in the wake of a series of mass shootings.

Even in a country where more people own more guns than anywhere else in the world, Nicholson's cache is extraordinary. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives doesn't rank gun seizures by size, but a spokesman says Nicholson's hoard probably is among the largest ever.

Yet when and why Nicholson set out to amass such an arsenal remains a mystery. Investigators are trying to determine whether he was simply a gunobsessed hoarder or a supply valve in the "Iron Pipeline" of illegal firearms flowing from the south to New Jersey, New York and other northern states. REUTERS

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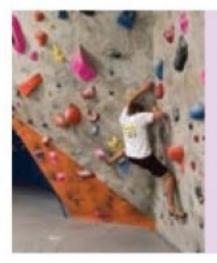
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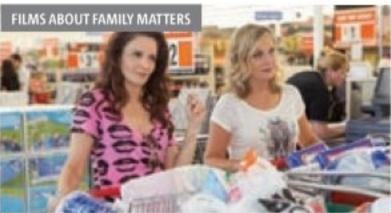
There aren't many big feel-good holiday-themed movies this season. Instead there are serious Oscar contenders, some of them bleak. On the other hand, maybe you'll see Chewbacca. Depending on which grim mood you're in, here's how this year's winter awards season looks at the movies.



The Dark Side awakens in "The Force Awakens." LUCASPILM

A recent piece in Wired suggested it's entirely possible the "Star Wars" series will outlive us all, spawning entries and spinoffs into the infinite. For now there's "The Force Awakens" (Dec. 18), which does what "Creed" just did to the "Rocky" movies: It leaves the movies in the hands of the next generation. But then we were all once stoked for the prequels, weren't we?

Of course, there will always be dumb remakes, like "Point Break" (Dec. 25), a fairly inessential-sounding redo of Kathryn Bigelow's surfer bank robber classic.



Tina Fey and Arny Poehler play sisters in "Sisters." UNIVERSAL

Dealing with the folks, siblings, cousins, their spouses, etc. during the holidays can be trying. At least the two big family films this season are ad-lib-heavy comedies. The first time Amy Poehler and Tina Fey paired for a movie it was "Baby Mama," a wan monstrosity miles below them. Here's hoping "Sisters" (Dec. 18) is more their speed, with the two throwing a bittersweet (but probably silly) soiree at their childhood home.

Meanwhile, the last time unlikely pair Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg teamed up was the brilliantly nutso "The Other Guys." They have a lot to live up to with "Daddy's Home" (Dec. 25), especially considering their second mashup — in which they play a warring dad and stepdad — is rated PG and therefore maybe at least partly sanitized and fam-friendly, and therefore potentially ugh.



Steve Carell and Ryan Gosling talk shop in "The Big Short." PARAMOUNT PICTURES

The studios always make room for eat-your-vegetables issue films, at least if they have flashy names attached. There's a bunch of stars in "The Big Short" (Dec. 11, NY/LA; Dec. 25, everywhere) which re-creates the migraine-inducingly complex road to the 2008 economic catastrophe, but with such pretty faces as Christian Bale, Ryan Gosling and Brad Pitt (and Steven Carell's not bad-looking either, even with that toupee).

Will Smith, meanwhile, has

"Concussion" (Dec. 25). Initially it was presumed this would be a brazen takedown of the NFL, but its makers have since insisted it's only slightly merciless toward America's most profitable sport. Best to leave the haranguing to Michael Moore, although his latest, "Where to Invade Next" (Dec. 23, NY/LA; Jan. 15, everywhere) is actually sweetly scathing. The film finds Moore globetrotting to find how other countries do American ideals better than us.

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#### FILMS ABOUT DEATH AND DYING

The holidays wouldn't be the same without grim studies of mortality and the struggle to survive, would they? First up is "In the Heart of the Sea" (Dec. 11), Ron Howard's literally splashy look at the destruction of a whaling ship and its surviving crew. Led by a reliably macho Chris Hemsworth, some make it to the lifeboats, only to have turn to cannibalism when they become lost at sea. Christmas dinner comes early.

If man-eating-man action isn't Christmas-y enough, there's also "The Revenant" (Dec. 25, NY/LA), in which "Birdman" director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu focuses on a scruffy Leonardo Di Caprio scampering about the wilderness in 1823. Sorry, but claims of a "bear rape" scene were false.



Chris Hemsworth is macho in "In the Heart of the Sea." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

### FILMS FROM BIG-TIME FILMMAKERS

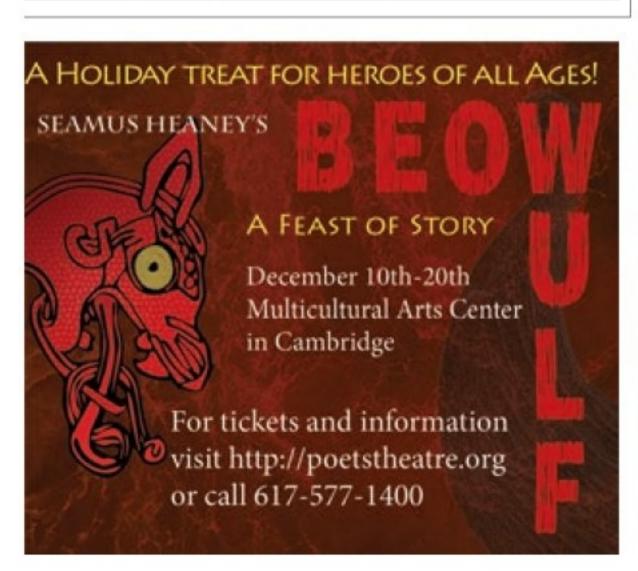
Sometimes the director is the big draw. Jennifer Lawrence may be all over the ads for "Joy" (Dec. 25), about a single mom trying to get the Miracle Mop off the ground. But it's perhaps moreso the latest from her "Silver Linings Playbook" and "American Hustle" boss, David O. Russell, who likes to cram multiple maniacs - in this case, JLaw, BCoop and Robert De Niro into anxious shots and watch them go.

Russell, though, has nothing on Quentin Tarantino, who's such a titan he's been able to make a blockbuster that a) is a Western, b) is three hours long and c) stars the not-so-profitable likes of Kurt Russell, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Bruce Dern. Behold "The Hateful Eight," which opens Dec. 25 only in theaters equipped with an actual,



Jennifer Lawrence vies for another Oscar in "Joy." TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX old-timey 70mm projector, then Jan. 8 in all those other loser theaters that can only handle

digital (which is to say most of them). There will be bloodand talking.







# Spike Lee is back and still great

# 'Chi-Rag'

Director: Spike Lee Stars: Teyonah Parris, Nick Cannon Rating: R



MATT PRIGGE @mattprigge matt.prigge@metro.us

It's been a decade since we got a real Spike Lee joint - the kind that pisses off the right people, the kind that speaks loudly and bluntly about societal ills that show no sign of abating, the kind that mixes the political with the humane, the kind that actually gets a wide release. "Chi-Raq" is one of those: an angry, boisterous, timely, hilarious, serious, goofy, necessary salvo. Lee has spent the last 10 years struggling to get work out. struggling to get money for films that can address what's going wrong.



Teyonah Parris ("Dear White People") gives a star-making turn in Spike Lee's "Chi-Raq." ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

"Chi-Raq" is just that. It's so up-to-the-minute, especially about black-onblack urban gun violence in Chicago, that it has a solid Ben Carson diss.

It's a satire crossed with a Greek tragedy an actual one, namely Aristophanes' "Lysistrata." Here, as there, the women of a community engaged in war go on a sex strike, led by Lysistrata (Teyonah Parris), the ladyfriend of a rapper/gang leader (Nick Cannon). She's gotta have it, but she also knows her man might prefer it to reckless gunplay. Soon she's rounding up other women to join her, hoping her "blue balls movement" will cause people to put down arms.

Lee, as commentators never tire of pointing out, is messy, but the jostling between tones — broadly funny, often filthy, then devastatingly serious, then back again — makes

sense with this topic. The palpable anger needs the levity of sex jokes, just as the sex jokes are built on a foundation of palpable anger. "Chi-Raq" is fun, and often very funny, and also focused in its fury and its conviction. It keeps moving, building to a utopian conclusion whose far-fetchedness makes its subject all the more despairing. It feels very now and timeless, universal and very, very much Spike Lee.



Allison Tolman, Adam Scott and Toni Collette run afoul of a Christmas creature in "Krampus." steve unwin

## 'Krampus'

Director: Michael Dougherty Stars: Adam Scott, Toni Collette Rating: PG-13

Tyler Perry gets chastised for mixing together extreme tones. But he has nothing on the Christmas horror/sortacomedy "Krampus." It opens with a "Bad Santa"-style satire of holiday shopping, then slides into a wan imitation "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation." Soon it turns into a freaky, beautifully filmed and rather grim dark horror. Every now and then, it wants to be a more comedic "Gremlins," but those scenes seem spliced in from another movie (maybe an actual "Gremlins" knockoff).

It could and should have been simple. Its monster is the Krampus of Alpine folklore, essentially the, well, bad Santa: a horned, animalistic creature

who punishes the misbehaving kids Kris Kringle snubs. Instead, he's been repurposed as an agent of vengeance, accidentally summoned by a sad boy to take out his mean extended family during the big Christmas hoedown.

But little holds together. The suspense scenes are moody and genuinely eerie. The creatures aren't CGI but lovingly made contraptions, usually boasting gorgeously eerie masks. They're the stuff of nightmares, and they don't jibe with jokes about alcoholic aunts spiking hot chocolate or Red State types making global warming gaffes. Even the Krampus and its powers are poorly explained, even after they've been actually explained in a mid-film animated sequence. It's not clear who it thinks its audience is. The filmmakers seem to think it's everyone, but it's really no one. MP





15

# Let's spend the 'Night' together

Adam Pally goes all out in "Night Owls" and even kisses a few reporters.



Never let anyone say Adam Pally won't take one for the team. The "Mindy Project" star is so eager to promote his dark comedy "Night Owls" that he starts our interview with a very forward overture. "I will kiss you. If you want that for a story, I will kiss you. Tell everyone I will kiss them for a good review," he

says, before

proceeding

to do just

that. But back to the film: Pally stars alongside Rosa Salazar as a beleaguered assistant and his drunken hook-up spending the night at his boss' house, which meant filming and living — in just the one location for the whole shoot.



so happy to have been given a script to read that was not where I was playing a guy named Booger or something. It was nice. And then the fact that it was a really tight script and it felt logical, and it seemed like a way to do a movie at this size. We're not supposed to tell you how small the budget was, but it was, like, mad small. [Laughs] Like, really small. So when you're doing a movie like that you just kind of have to roll with it and know that you're going to be in one

That kind of situation has to be good for bonding. For Rosa and I, we didn't know each other that great going in, and then you're like living with someone, and you're like, "Oh, I really don't like



Adam Pally and Rosa Salazar have a rough night in "Night Owls," now on VOD. ORION PICTURES

you." [Laughs] No, but it becomes more than just shooting a movie when you do a 14-hour night shoot and then you wake up and you go downstairs to have a bowl of cereal in your pajamas and your co-star is there. You just get to know each other so quickly and it just becomes really intense, and that showed onscreen.

#### How did the house spaces break down, "Real World"-wise?

Rosa's room was definitely the Zen space if sgot intense. There would be days when they would give us, like, 14 pages of dialogue. The breakup scene was shot over two

days, and we'd had such a lovely time and become really, really good friends, and then you have two days of essentially breaking up and being really mean to each other. And we got all weird with each other and wouldn't talk to each other, and it was very much mimicking the movie in that way. And I think that showed.

#### You guys beat the crap out of each other in this. How did you negotiate that physical comedy? We never talked once about it. Without knowing each other, I knew

that I could withstand a

was so wrong. Holy s-.

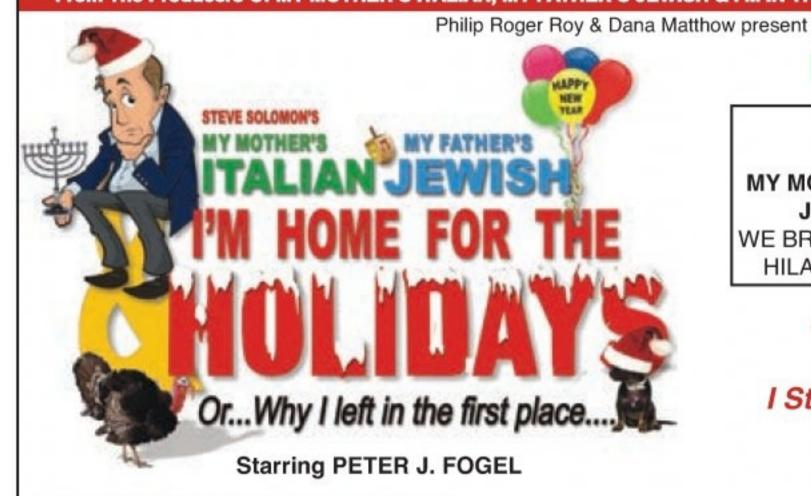
beating from her — and I

# Adam Pally's weirdest night

"I was kind of seeing this girl in college and there was a chance this other girl was going to come home with us," Pally recalls. "I was really, really drunk. We got back to my place and things almost started happening, and I was like, 'Hold on a sec, I'm hungry,' which was an odd thing to say. I walked outside and grabbed an old burrito, took a bite and it instantly got me nauseous. I went to the bathroom - which was in my bedroom, so I had to walk by the two girls - and started puking for, like, three hours."

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#### Wilson

Sunday was a career day for the Seattle QB with five TDs and 345 yards. For the same \$7,600 salary in consecutive weeks, Wilson delivered 25-plus points. 3.2% OWNED, 35.2 FANDUEL POINTS (FDPS)

#### Peterson, Ivory

In a year where the running back position has been absolutely decimated, Adrian Peterson stands alone reminiscent of the Highlander. Not every game has been a gem, but this weekend AP went off for 158 yards and over 30 points in Atlanta.. ADRIAN PETERSON: 13.2% OWNED, 31.7 FDPS CHRIS IVORY: 10.3% OWNED, 17.2 FDPS

#### Beckham, Watkins, Baldwin

Beckham is the type of player you need to win a tournament of this size. He's explosive and that quality is worthy of such a large portion of your team budget. Some may fear his Week 13 matchup against the Jets and Darrelle Revis, but can the aging corner keep up? ODELL BECKHAM JR: 35.8% OWNED, 24.7 FDPS, SAMMY WATKINS: 1.8% OWNED, 30.8 FDPS, DOUG BALDWIN: 1% OWNED, 35.5 FDPS

## Reed

His eight catches for 98 yards against the Giants was a stellar performance for \$5.8K. At home this week versus the lowly Dallas Cowboys, he's a nice value in Week 13. JORDAN REED: 17.1% OWNED, 13.8 FDPS

## Walsh, Vikings D

BLAIR WALSH: 4.3% OWNED, 8 FDPS, MINNESOTA VIKINGS: 1.1% OWNED, 12 FDPS

FanDuel

# MONEY AIN'T A THANG

It's a pretty simple philosophy. If you can't pitch, you won't win. Once you accept that as truth, then the Red Sox' offseason will make perfect sense.

Nearly three weeks after trading for one of the best closers in baseball in Craig Kimbrel, the Red Sox signed lefty starter David Price to a sevenyear, \$217 million deal. The \$31 million average annual salary is the highest ever for a pitcher. And he can opt-out after three years if he wants, at the age of 33.

Price turns 31 in August. He led the American League with a 2.45 ERA last season, pitching for both the Detroit Tigers and Toronto Blue Jays.

The Tigers traded him at the deadline, and if not for the acquisition, the Blue Jays wouldn't have been such a lock for the postseason. In 11 starts for Toronto, Price went 9-1 with a 2.30 ERA while striking out 87 in 74.1 innings. His postseason numbers weren't as great: a 6.17 ERA in three starts (four appearances), as the Blue Jays lost to the eventual World Series champion Kansas City Royals in the ALCS.

It's those postseason numbers — to go along with a 2-7 record and 5.12 ERA in his postsea-



David Price went a combined 18-5 with the Tigers and Blue Jays last season. GETTY IMAGES

son career — that make some question whether \$217 million is too much money for the 30-year-

Did I say "pitcher"? Sorry, I meant "ace." Because that's exactly what Price is. And that's exactly what the Red Sox need, if they want to win again.

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Complaining about the \$217 million doesn't make much sense. If the Red Sox need a top-of-therotation arm, how should they get it? Sure, there's always the possibility of a blockbuster trade which I still don't rule out, by the way. But even if that happened, the Sox would eventually have to pay that pitcher. And in 2015, the market value for an "ace" is exactly what Dave Dombrowski just gave Price.

Look at some of the recent deals for dominant starters. Last winter, Jon Lester signed with the Chicago Cubs for \$155 million over six seasons, which makes for a \$26 million average annual salary. Also last winter, the Washington Nationals gave Max Scherzer a seven-year, \$210 million deal, which comes out to an average annual salary of \$30 million. And just before the 2014 season, Clayton Kershaw signed a seven-year, \$215 million extension with the Los Angeles Dodgers, which is just under a \$31 million average annual salary.

So, there you go. That's what it takes in 2015 to either keep or acquire a dominant starting pitcher with the signing of a check. And given the market that was already

# DANNY **PICARD**

OPINION

"The Danny Picard Show" airs every weekday at DannyPicard.com. Danny can also be heard on WEEI 93.7 FM. @dannypicard



set, it should come as no surprise that someone like Price would receive a similar contract. And out of all the free agents available, Price is the best bet to succeed in Boston.

Price has a 1.95 ERA in 11 career starts at that includes playing in Boston and New York,

the two most pressurepacked cities in sports.

Some believe he hasn't proven himself in the postseason, which, if you only Google-search "David Price career postseason stats," you'll be correct. But if you actually watched his two starts in the 2015 ALCS — both on the road in Kansas City you'd see that the ERA and win-loss doesn't tell the whole story.

Price had eight strikeouts in both of those starts, while walking only one total batter, going into the seventh inning of each game. In the first start, his manager left him on the mound for way too long. In the second start, Price allowed two solo home runs in the first two innings, but settled down nicely and was dealing the rest of the way.

I'm not making excuses for him. His postseason numbers aren't good. But if you actually watch Price pitch, you'll know that he's got the power stuff to eventually figure it out in October.

And when you accept the fact that the Red Sox need to get back to the postseason before they can even begin to worry about postseason numbers, then the signing of Price will make perfect sense.

Fenway Park. It's his best ERA in any ballpark that he's pitched in at least three times. The 2012 AL Cy Young award winner and five-time All-Star has spent nearly all of his career in the AL East. So he's proven himself in a pressure-packed division



Brandon LaFell will be one of Tom Brady's top options this Sunday in Foxboro against the Eagles. GETTY MAGES

# What to watch for as Pats host Philly

Patriots look to avoid a "trap game" against the 4-7 Eagles.



It's been almost two weeks since the Patriots have won a game — a stretch of time that feels like forever around these parts. Yes, the Broncos ended the Patriots' perfect season last Sunday in Denver. But with the news that Rob Gronkowski would not miss the rest of the season with a major knee injury, it almost felt like the Patriots left Denver with a win anyway. New England's loss last week is probably bad news for

this week's opponent, the Philadelphia Eagles. Since 2003, The Patriots are 38-4 in regularseason games following a loss, including 11 straight wins after a loss since 2012. That's right; there have been just four two-game losing streaks for the Patriots since 2003.

Here are three things to watch on Sunday (4:25 p.m., Fox):

# 1 JUST STAY HEALTHY

Assuming it's a violation of the league dress code, Brady unfortunately won't be able to jog out to the field covered in bubble wrap on Sunday. It's no secret that the walls have been crashing down around No. 12

recently, as it seems an integral player on the offense goes down every week. Dion Lewis, Julian Edelman, Danny Amendola, and most recently Rob Gronkowski have all been hit with the injury bug.

# 2ALL 3 PHASES

If you forgot that special teams play can completely change the makeup of a game, you were reminded the hard way last Sunday upon Chris Harper's muffed punt in the fourth quarter. The Eagles will prove to be challenging in that phase. They average 47.1 yards per punt (eighth in NFL) and allow a league-low 4.7 yards per punt return. They average

10.9 yards per punt return (fourth in NFL) too. "Special teams, it's probably the best unit we've faced all year," Bill Belichick said. "They have great returners with [Josh] Huff and [Darren] Sproles, good specialists, they're a really good cover team, good return team, good rush team, punt blocks, field goal blocks, they make a lot of plays."

It sounds like Sam
Bradford is going to start
at QB, and everybody
knows what running
back DeMarco Murray is
capable of. After watching the Broncos backs
have their way with the
Pats' defense last week,
stopping Murray could
be a problem.





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Gemini Travel, physical activities and entertainment will give you a new lease on life and ease the emotional stress you face.



Cancer Keeping busy is your best course of action against someone looking for a fight. Protect your health and well-being.



Leo Make special plans. Whether you attend an event or host a get-together at home, your generosity will be ap-



Virgo Don't overreact to emotional disappointments. Get all the facts and look for a solution that will ensure no one gets hurt or feels alienated.



Libra Shop for something that will lift your spirits and boost your confidence. Take better care of your physical and mental states.



Scorpio Home-improvement projects will be money and effort well spent. Your unique ideas will help you stand out and be noticed.



Sagittarius Verify every piece of information that comes your way. Accuracy will make a huge contribution to your success.



Capricorn You can't buy love, but you can go into debt trying. If you want to spend money, purchase something that will grow in value.



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Pisces Your emotional life will suffer if you haven't been honest about the way you feel. Someone will take advantage of you. EUGENIA LAST

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	7					1		2

#### Across

- 1 Pet lovers' grp. 5 Boat crane

- 15 Inner self, to Jung
- 17 Toga party site
- 18 Mimic in a cage
- 20 Mr. Toscanini 22 Courier
- 26 Ballpark figure

- 43 Helen, in Spain
- -- Mack
- ters (2 wds.)
- 53 Wannabe prince
- 60 Czech capital
- 65 Kid
- 67 Starlet's dream

- 10 Cone producer
- 14 Kauai neighbor
- 16 Weaving machine
- 19 Bosons live there
- 24 Soft shoes
- 27 Thoroughly
- 30 Van Gogh painting
- 34 Puckster Bobby -
- 35 Vaccine
- 38 Kind of squash 39 Periodical, for
- short
- 40 Yma -
- 42 TNT part
- 46 Hurricane courses
- 48 Amateur pro
- 49 Turn to bone
- 51 Numbers on let-
- 55 Fiery gem
- 56 Topo map lines
- 64 Et (and others)

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- 69 Snert's master 70 Of an epoch
- 71 so much
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- 3 Talk online
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- stant threat)
- 6 Whichever
- 7 Morning glory 8 Mosque officials
- 9 Gauguin's island 10 Leather substitute
- 11 Pinch
- 12 Koh-i- diamond
- 13 Tube trophy
- 21 Towel holders
- 23 Name in cheese-
- 25 Waffle topper
- 27 Mercutio's pal
- 28 Face-to-face exams 29 Coaxes
- 31 voce 32 Screwed things up
- 36 Ms. Thurman 37 Passover staple

33 Catty

- 41 Bough eaters 44 Groovier 45 Frizzy hairdo
- 47 Bandy words 50 Minors yet
- 52 Dry red wine
- 54 auk or aunt 56 Birthday treat

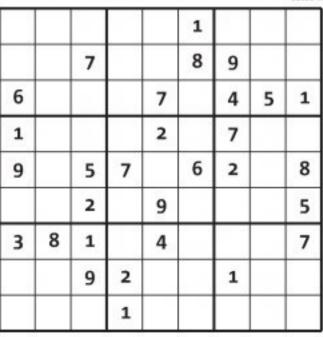
57 Many a Norway king

- 58 Shade of green 59 Confucius, for one 61 Hurt with a horn
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VALID 12/4 TIL 1PM OR 12/5/15 TIL 1PM LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER.

FRIENDS & FAMILY NOW-THURS, DEC. 10, 2015 TAKE AN EXTRA SAVINGS OFF REGULAR, SALE & CLEARANCE PRICES

STOREV

Excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), cosmetics/fragrances; athletic apparel, shoes & accessories; Breitling, Jack Spade, Kate Spade, Samsung watches, Tag Heuer, Tempur-Pedic, The North Face, Tumi, products offered by vendors who operate leased departments in any of our stores including: Burberry, Dallas Cowboys merchandise, Gucci, Longchamp, Louis Vuitton, maternity, New Era, Nike on Field. Not valid on: Macy's Backstage merchandise/locations, gift cards, gournet foods, jewelry trunk shows, payment on credit accounts, previous purchases, restaurants, select designer jewelry, watches, special orders, services, wine. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. EXTRA SAVINGS % APPLIED TO REDUCED PRICES. Only one promo code may be used per transaction. Additional exclusions apply online, see macys.com/friend. Friends & Family discount code valid online Dec. 1-Dec. 10, 2015. Promotional code for macys.com: FRIEND

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\*\*Rubies are lead-glass filled. Fine jewelry specials are available only in stores that carry fine jewelry. REG. & ORIG. PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES & SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIG. PRICES NOT IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. SUPER SATURDAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 12/4-12/5/15. MERCHANDISE WILL BE ON SALE AT THESE & OTHER SALE PRICES THROUGH 1/2/16, EXCEPT AS NOTED. \*Intermediate price reductions may have been taken. ‡All carat weights are approx; variance may be .05 carat. Jewelry photos may be enlarged or enhanced to show detail. Fine jewelry at select stores; log on to macys. com for locations. Almost all gemstones have been treated to enhance their beauty & require special care, log on to macys.com/gemstones or ask your sales professional. Extra savings taken off already-reduced prices; "special" prices reflect extra savings. Advertised merchandise may not be carried at your local Macy's & selection may vary by store. Specials are available while supplies last. Prices & merchandise may differ at macys.com. Electrics & luggage carry mfrs' warranties; to see a mfr's warranty at no charge before purchasing, visit a store or write to: Macy's Warranty Dept., PO Box 1026 Maryland Heights, MO 63043, attn: Consumer Warranties. N5110378.



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